

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Date of Posting: June 8, 2017

Travis County

502 E. Highland Mall Blvd.

Austin, Texas 78752

512-854-3460

On or about June 21, 2017, Travis County will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) San Antonio Field Office for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funds under Title I of Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following project.

PROJECT TITLE: Program Year 2016 Travis County CDBG Owner-Occupied Septic System Program

PURPOSE: To fund septic system repair/replacement services at existing single family homes for low and moderate income homeowners in order to move homes towards Housing Quality Standards.

LOCATION: Specific homes will be located in the unincorporated areas of Travis County and the Village of Webberville and will be selected as qualified residents apply.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project purpose is to improve the quality of housing stock in the CDBG service area for low to moderate income homeowners by repairing or replacing failing or non-compliant on-site sewage systems (septic systems) at owner-occupied homes. This project will fund the repair or replacement of septic systems, along with any related costs needed such as surveys, engineering, design, and permits, for low and moderate income homeowners in the unincorporated areas of Travis County and the Village of Webberville, to continue moving homes towards Housing Quality Standards. A grant of up to \$24,999 is available for each property. Since specific addresses for the properties are not known at this time, site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.

LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CITATION: The proposed activities are categorically excluded from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements under HUD regulations at 24 §CFR 58.35(a)(3)(i).

SITE SPECIFIC REVIEW: Travis County has chosen to tier the environmental review of the CDBG Septic System program. According to 24 CFR Part 58, a responsible entity may tier its environmental review and assessments to eliminate the repetitive discussions of the same issues at subsequent levels of review. A tiered approach is appropriate when there is a requirement to evaluate a policy or proposal early in the stages of development or when a site specific analysis of mitigation is not currently feasible and a narrower or more focused analysis is better done at a later date. Due to the nature of the CDBG Septic System program, certain aspects of the environmental review can be completed collectively for all the sites or are not applicable, while the remaining areas of environmental review will need to be evaluated at a site-specific level based on their location and site specific conditions. The site specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the broad review: 24 CFR §58.5(i)(1) and 58.6(d) Airport Hazards [24 CFR 51D], 24 CFR §58.5(i)(2) Contamination and Toxic Substances [24 CFR 58.5 (i)(2)], 24 CFR §58.5(b)(1) Floodplain Management [24 CFR 55, Executive Order 119988], 24 CFR §58.5(a) Historic Properties [36 CFR 800], 24 CFR §58.35(b)(2) Wetlands Protection [24 CFR 55, Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5], and 24 CFR §58.5(j) Environmental Justice [Executive Order 12898].

MITIGATION MEASURES/CONDITIONS/PERMITS: No mitigation measures, conditions, or permits are required at the broad scale. The site specific review will determine whether there are any such measures, conditions, or permits applicable at the site specific scale.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST: This project is fully funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Grant Number	Grant Year	Dollar Amount
B-16-UC-48-0503	Program Year 2016	\$250,000*
		TOTAL: \$250,000

*Some of these dollars will be included in an exemption of funds for project delivery.

The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per citation listed above (under Level of Environmental Review Citation). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is maintained on file at the Travis County Health and Human Services and Veterans Service Office, CDBG Office at 502 E. Highland Mall Blvd, Austin, TX, 78752 and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Travis County HHS/VS, CDBG Office, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX, 78767. All comments received on or about June 19, 2017, will be considered by Travis County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Travis County certifies to HUD that Sarah Eckhardt, Certifying Officer, in her capacity as County Judge consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Travis County to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and Travis County's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of Travis County; (b) Travis County has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD at H.F. Garcia Federal Building/U.S. Courthouse, 615 E. Houston St., Suite 347, San Antonio, TX 78205. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County Judge/Certifying Officer